

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02891 041749Z

73

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 041520Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7763

INFO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

S E C R E T MOSCOW 2891

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UR, US

SUBJECT: USA INSTITUTE ON SALT REDUCTION

1. SUMMARY. USA INSTITUTE STRATEGIC SPECIALIST L.S. SEMEYKO HAS EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE USSR MAY BE ABLE TO CUT ITS AGGREGATE STRATEGIC DELIVERY SYSTEMS BY 30 PERCENT IN THE CONTEXT OF A SALT AGREEMENT ON REDUCTIONS. HE ALSO CONTENDED THE USSR IS NOT INTERESTED IN DEVELOPMENT OF LAND-MOBILE ICBMS. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING RECEPTION CONVERSATION BETWEEN SEMEYKO AND A MEMBER OF THE U.S. PNE DELEGATION (IFFT), SEMEYKO WAS ASKED WHAT HE THOUGHT THE PROSPECTS ARE FOR REDUCTIONS IN STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE DELIVERY SYSTEMS. HE RESPONDED THAT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CHINESE AND OTHER FACTORS, THE USSR COULD IMMEDIATELY REDUCE ITS AGGREGATE BY ABOUT 30 PERCENT.

3. SEMEYKO THEN RAISED THE SUBJECT OF MOBILE ICBM'S, ASSERTING THE U.S. IS MORE INTERESTED IN SUCH SYSTEMS THAN THE USSR. TO PROVE HIS POINT, SEMEYKO REFERRED TO THE TOLUBKO INTERVIEW PUBLISHED "RECENTLY" IN NEDELYA. HE QUOTED TOLUBKO AS SAYING "THE USSR IS NOT BUILDING MOBILE ICBM'S AND DOES NOT INTEND TO BUILD MOBILE ICMB'S." WHEN IFFT EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM IN VIEW OF THE WELL-KNOWN SOVIET POSITION ON LAND-MOBILE ICBM'S

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THROUGHOUT SALT ONE, SEMEYKO SAID HE WAS AWARE OF ALL

THIS BUT THAT "MAYBE OUR POSITION HAS CHANGED."

4. COMMENT: THE TOLUBKO ARTICLE REFERRED TO BY SEMEYKO (PUBLISHED NOV 19) CONTAINS ONLY A BRIEF DENIAL THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS CONDUCTING TESTS OF NEW MOBILE INTERCONTINENTAL SYSTEMS AND DOES NOT GO AS FAR AS SEMEYKO DID IN DENYING SOVIET INTEREST IN SUCH SYSTEMS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SEMEYKO HAS OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION, AND SIMPLY REFERRED TO THE TOLUBKO ARTICLE AS PUBLIC EVIDENCE OF SOVIET INTENTIONS IN THIS REGARD. HOWEVER, HE MAY ALSO BE EXTRAPOLATING ON THE TOLUBKO ARTICLE AND DRAWING HIS OWN CONCLUSIONS ON THAT BASIS ALONE.

5. SEMEYKO'S ESTIMATE OF A 30 PERCENT REDUCTION IS THE FIRST CONCRETE FIGURE WE HAVE SEEN FROM ANY SOVIET SOURCE. OFFICIALS OF THE USA INSTITUTE SUCH AS SEMEYKO ARE NOT IN POLICY-MAKING POSITIONS, BUT WE HAVE HAD INDICATIONS IN THE PAST THAT THEY DO HAVE SOME INPUT IN THE POLICY-MAKING PROCESS. THE FIGURE HE MENTIONED MAY HAVE BEEN ARRIVED AT DURING A STUDY ON THE ISSUE WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE USA INSTITUTE, POSSIBLY AT THE REQUEST OF A POLICY-MAKING BODY.  
STOESSEL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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